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NEVADA STATE HEALTH DIVISION NEWS RELEASE

Nevada State Health Division Continues to Assist Health Care Providers Obtain Additional Influenza Vaccine

Carson City – The Nevada State Health Division received notification today from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) that the remaining 3.1 million doses of influenza vaccine in the federal government's emergency reserve is now available for purchase by public and private health care providers. The additional vaccine can be purchased and used to vaccinate anyone who did not meet the prior high-risk priority group qualifications.

The additional influenza vaccine can be purchased **directly** from the manufacturer, sanofi pasteur (formerly Aventis Pasteur) or a vaccine distributor, rather than working through the Nevada State Health Division. Doses purchased may now be administered to any person. Providers who purchase vaccine using this new procedure will be allowed to return unused vaccine for a credit and will have financial responsibility for return shipping costs only.

"We have seen flu activity increase in the state," said State Health Officer, Bradford Lee, M.D. "Typically, the peak of the flu season is February, but there have been years when the season has peaked in March. It is still not too late to receive a flu vaccination and, if health care providers are still in need of vaccine, I strongly urge them to contact their distributor and order vaccine as soon as possible."

Health care providers who experience problems obtaining flu vaccine can continue to ask the Health Division for assistance.

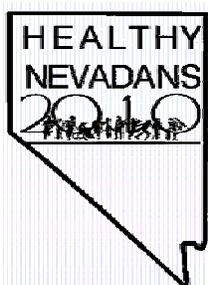
In areas within the state where there are ample supplies of influenza vaccine, CDC endorses the efforts of state and local health officials to broaden the groups of people recommended to receive vaccine.

To learn more about influenza, please visit the following website:
<http://health2k.state.nv.us> and click on "flu," located under "Hot Topics."

Other helpful telephone numbers:

Clark County Health District: 702-385-INFO (4636)
Washoe County District Health Department, Influenza Hotline: 775-328-3724
Nevada State Health Division: 775-684-4014

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